GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:505
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN TRIBAL AREAS
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the developmental and other facilities related works in the tribal areas have been stopped on account of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 505 REGAF
`DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN TRIBAL AREAS` DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.4.2001.

(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) The Act does not prohibit any non-forestry activity in forest areas but only regulates indiscriminate and unnecessary diversion of forest land which may adversely affect ecological balance and the environmental stability. The Act also aims at sustained supply of forest usufructs to local communities and safeguarding reduction in the extent of natural forests.

Every proposal requiring forest land for non-forestry purposes is considered on merit and in case the diversion is necessary and unavoidable, permission is accorded with suitable conditions keeping due regard to environmental security of the area. Since 1980, under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, more than 6000 proposals for developmental and other facilities related works involving about 4.94 lakh hectare forest land has been approved by the Ministry.